

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MAGALHAES AND THE LEFT: GROWING DISTRUST

REF: LISBON 4430 (NOTAL)

1. AUG. 5 ISSUE OF COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS"
CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH GEN. ALTINO DE MAGALHAES, THE AZOREAN
MILITARY GOVERNOR, WHICH REFLECTS BOTH MAGALHAES' CONSISTENT
MODERATION AND THE LEFT'S GROWING DISTRUST OF HIS COMMITMENT
TO THE AZOREAN PEOPLE AND TO PORTUGAL'S SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.

2. MAGALHAES MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE AZOREAN SITUATION:

-- THE MEMBERS FOR THE PROPOSED AZOREAN GOVERNMENTAL JUNTA
HAVE ALREADY BEEN SELECTED AND FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER OF INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION FOR APPROVAL;

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-- BESIDES CONSTITUTING A SORT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR THE

AZORES, THE JUNTA'S PRIMARY TASK WILL BE THE FORMULATION OF AUTONOMY STATUTES FOR THE ISLANDS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT;
-- ECONOMIC PRIORITIES FOR THE AZORES INCLUDE: INCREASED ROAD CONSTRUCTION; IMPROVED WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM; UPGRADED REFRIGERATION SYSTEM; CONTINUATION OF CURRENT ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM; AND MORE EFFICIENT EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.
-- AZORES STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST FOR TWO REASONS: ITS CATHOLICISM, AND THE FEAR THAT A LEFTWARD TURN COULD SEVER THE TIES WITH AMERICA. "THE AZOREANS ARE NOT HERE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA; THE AZORES ARE OUT THERE." (MEANING IN AMERICA). OVER TWO-THIRDS OF ITS PEOPLE LIVE ABROAD IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.
-- FLA IS AN "ENEMY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS". ITS LEADERSHIP STAYS MAINLY OUTSIDE THE ISLANDS, BUT WHEN IN THE ISLANDS REMAINS IN THE CITIES, MAKING DETECTION IMPOSSIBLE.

3. "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" REPORTER MANUEL DIAS, A STRONG LEFTIST, WAS SKEPTICAL AND SUSPICIOUS OF MAGALHAES THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW. HE NOTED THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIONS AND "UN-ANSWERED QUESTIONS", AND IMPLIED THAT MAGALHAES WAS EVASIVE AND LESS THAN FRANK;
-- MAGALHAES' ECONOMIC PROGRAM FOR THE AZORES SMACKS MORE OF "HUMANIZED" CAPITALISM THAN REAL SOCIALISM, LEAVING UNTOUCHED THE BASIC "EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN". IN FACT, MAGALHAES DOESN'T MENTION THE BUILDING OF SOCIALISM AT ALL.
-- NO MENTION AT ALL OF THE SOCIALIZATION OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, AGRARIAN REFORM, DYNAMIZATION OF WORKERS, OR THE CREATION OF ORGANIZATIONS GRANTING POWER TO THE PEOPLE, ALL PRIMARY GOALS OF SOCIALISM.
-- NO EXPLANATION FOR THE PASSIVITY OF THE ARMED FORCES IN THE FACE OF FLA THREATS TO AZORES;
-- NO MENTION OF THE PROVISIONAL CLANDESTINE GOVERNMENT OF THE AZORES (GOVERNO PROVISORIO CLANDESTINO DOS ACORES) OR OF MILITARY EFFORTS TO DESTROY IT;
-- NO EXPLANATION FOR THE FAILURE TO FIND AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BEATING UP THE SAILORS OF THE FRIGATE "JOAO BELO" ON JULY 24;
-- NO EXPLANATION FOR THE RELEASE OF THE THIRTY INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOLLOWING THE JUNE 6 INCIDENTS;
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-- AND WORST OF ALL, NO EXPLANATION AT ALL OF THE CAUSES OF HIS POPULARITY AMONG FLA MEMBERS THEMSELVES.

4. COMMENT: MAGALHAES' INTERVIEW DOES NOT CONTRADICT, BUT RATHER SUBSTANTIATES, THE STATEMENTS HE MADE TO ARMA AS REPORTED IN REFTEL. CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS MADE BY LEFTIST REPORTER HIGHLIGHTS MAGALHAES' INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO RESORT TO SOCIALIST RHETORIC EVEN FOR THE SAKE OF CAMOUFLAGING

HIS MODERATE POSITION. AS IT IS, CLEAR CONTRADICTIONS
BETWEEN MAGALHAES' POSITION AND THE "AIMS OF THE SOCIALIST
REVOLUTION", AND THE "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" DECISION TO STRESS
THESE, SHOW THE GROWING DISTRUST FOR MAGALHAES AMONG MEMBERS
OF THE LEFT, AND COULD BE AN EFFORT TO FORCE GOP TO PURGE HIM.
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